

## **Eagle Island Committee**

### **Agenda**

June 21, 2006

9 am to 4 PM

Summit Conference Room

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation HQ

5657 Warm Springs Avenue

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|-------|---|
| 9:00  | Welcome and introduction of guests (Chair Nancy Merrill)  |
| 9:05  | Status of Eagle Island survey, presentation of Treasure Valley outdoor recreation participation data (Rick Just)                |
| 9:30  | Introduction of Beck and Baird staff (Dave Ricks)   |
| 9:35  | Presentation of three dimensional imaging capabilities, 45 minutes overview of floodplain and gravel situations at Eagle Island |
| 10:20 | Break   |
| 10:30 | Presentation of process (Ernie Lombard)   |
| 11:00 | Committee assignments (Nancy Merrill)   |
| 11:30 | Lunch, explanation of facilitated group processes (Mike Pepper, Dan Baird)  |
| 12:30 | Full group to identify issues, constraints, future conditions of the park (Mike Pepper and Dan Baird facilitate)                |
| 1:45  | Break   |
| 2:00  | Committee breaks into three small groups to discuss goals   |
| 3:00  | Three small groups come together as a full committee to prioritize goals  |
| 3:55  | Meeting date discussion   |
| 4:00  | Adjourn   |

In attendance, Bob Meinen, Jim Thomas, Dan Baird, Dave Ricks, Mike Pepper, Colie Beck, Jason Pfaff, Jim Hall, Nancy Merrill, Senator Hal Bunderson, Representative Margaret Henbest, Doug Strong, Representative Max Black, Jim Mihan, Judy Peavey-Derr, Elaine Clegg, Linda Clark, Ernie Lombard, Jim Zamzow, Tom Chelstrom, Matt Ellsworth, Tom Long, Gary Shelley, Jan Johns, Rick Just

# Eagle Island Committee

## Workshop Results

Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 2006

The following notes are the result of facilitated collective and small group discussion. The general purpose of the discussion was twofold; to identify the elements of the desired future park condition, *the Vision for the Park*, and the preliminary Goals to support and achieve the Vision.

### I. General Purpose of the Committee

- To define Eagle Island State Park
- To establish a collective Vision for Eagle Island State Park
- Consider the role of the park as a Urban / Natural Park – “Urtural Park”

### II. Park Existing Conditions

The committee discussed the broad elements of the park’s existing conditions as background for development of the elements of a collective vision for the park. Items discussed included;

- **Conditions**, including existing uses, challenges, considerations, concerns
- **Users**, including who they are and what they want
- **Opportunities**, including what should be provided to meet user needs and demands
- **Limitations**, including undesired uses
- **Desired Future Conditions**, that align with the vision for the park
- **Goals**, to support / achieve the desired future condition and to reflect priorities

### III. Committee Brainstorming:

#### a. Conditions

- Environmental Constraints
  - Regulatory
- Competing interests
- Long-term financing
  - Sustainability
- Unique opportunity with long standing value

- Don't duplicate what can be done more appropriately elsewhere
- "Highest and best" use
- Regional growth and demographics
- Uniqueness
  - River defines the park
- Wetlands mitigation
  - Flood plain, restrictions
- Parking
- Maintain water quality without invasive species
- Multi-use education of users for variety of activities
  - Urban / natural park
- Partnerships
- Programming for all income levels

**b. Concerns**

- Not open enough
- Impacts of cattle grazing
- Water right use / preservation
- Safety of users
- Crime

**c. Opportunities**

- Improved on-site access
- Multi-use
- Education
- State Park Significance / Role
- ID Fish and Game facility adjacent to park
  - Education, Complementary
    - Fish and Game
    - Ecology
    - Hatchery and wetlands
    - Wildlife viewing
  - Walking trails
- Nature Center "World Class"
  - Showpiece
- Partnership with Fish and Game
- Pathway connections

**d. Uses**

- Education Needs
- Orientation
- Trial uses
- Not sports
- Interest- thus far
- Picnic
- Swimming

- Safety

**e. Respect / Define Uniqueness**

- Wetlands
- Natural in Urban Setting
- Open Space
- Historical Resources
- Wildlife opportunities
- Educational opportunities
  - Reflect state role and goals
- River
- Fish
- Center of population
- Access to the public

**f. Desired Future Conditions**

- Creative / appropriate use of water
- Pathways and connections / surface and water
- Adaptability for future needs
- Park Context: Urban in natural setting vs. natural in an urban setting
  - “Urtural” park
- Multi-use water experience
- Open space
- Non-motorized
- “Japanese Garden” concept
- Frequent use demand
- Reflect what people want to do
- Reflect demographics, users (culture)
- Affordable
- Partnerships
- Sustainable operation
- Resource preservation / enhancement / restoration
  - Water quality
  - Wildlife
  - Natural
- Natural, “the river”
- Handicap accessible
- Island of natural area
  - “non-urban” uses
  - Urban fishery
  - Urban camping
- Serenity
  - “Urban Park” with Natural features
- Natural park in urban setting
  - Complementary natural setting

- New / innovative design and use
- Safe
- Accessible to public
- Multi- “appropriate” use
  - Optimize use of water
- Retain State Park significance
- Sustainable resource and role
- River / water... Best, innovative use
- Complementary to adjacent uses
- Watercraft trail
  - Beginning and advanced users
- Historic interpretation
  - Buildings
    - Site for moved buildings?
  - Farms
- Outdoor theater
- Year round use
- Efficient circulation in / out
- Non competitive to other private / public opportunities
- Education
  - Wildlife
  - Trees and vegetation
- Non- Motorized

#### **IV. Small Group Sessions: Goals discussion**

##### **Group 1**

- Offer themes within the park to reflect the natural and developed features and attractions.
- Provide structured and informal educational and interpretive opportunities / experiences to reflect the park’s features and unique resources (science, ecology, wildlife, wetlands).
- Emphasize and interpret the historic attributes of the park and region; working examples of historic uses.
- Provide a range of year round non-motorized recreation, year-round opportunities that highlight the park’s resources and outdoor lifestyle of the region.
- Provide a gateway to outdoor recreation opportunities in Idaho.
- Provide a showcase of outdoor rec opportunities in Idaho.
- Provide affordable recreation opportunities for families to engage in healthy outdoor recreation.

- Develop and operate EISP as a natural park accessible to urban dwellers.
- Preserve, enhance and sustain the park's natural resources
- Provide opportunities for donations and endowments that fit with the character of the park.
- Provide spaces, opportunities and environment that allows visitors to escape their everyday life to achieve serenity, reflection
- Maintain the river and it's amenities as a focal point of the park.

## **Group Two**

### **Sustainable Operation**

- Variety of funding mechanisms
- Self-sustaining
- Ecologically sustainable
- Operational responsibility

### **Partnerships**

- Create a “friend of the park group”
- Develop user and sponsor partnerships
- Sustainable and reliable

### **Multi-Functional, Flexible and Appropriate Uses**

- Non-duplication of other assets
- Takes advantage of natural setting
- Non-motorized

### **Innovative Uses**

- Meet multi-flexible-appropriate use
- Flood management mechanisms/research

### **Year-Round Use**

- Financially viable
- Respond to survey/demographics—don’t get trapped in present
- Plan for future use

### **Appropriate Use Water/River**

- Regulatory feasibility
- Improve river access
- Connectivity to entire river system

## **Group Three**

### **Safety**

G-1 Adequate services available—utilities, fire emergencies

G-2 Vehicle access: two entrances / exits. One entrance controlled for events and emergencies, one “front door” off Highway 44.

G-3 Pathway access needs to be from multiple key locations.

G-4 Adequate staff and patrols

### **Water/Land Pathways**

G-1 Connect surrounding neighborhoods with paths.

G-2 Manage open areas without prohibiting access to other park activities.

G-3 Provide river access to park and explore water paths within the park by connecting the two river channels if hydrologically feasible.

### **Uses**

G-1 Provide year-round adaptive use, i.e., curling and ice skating in winter, a stage in the summer.

G-2 Dog park of 10-15 acres, also used as a retrieving area.

G-3 Maintain state park significance by reinforcing the concept of natural areas and by providing activities that reflect this.

G-4 Design and plan for adaptability by programming activities that don’t require extensive permanent infrastructure in order to keep open space.

G-5 Define areas for more permanent activities that reflect history, environmental education.

G-6 Use on-site resources, topography, landscape to separate and define activity areas “Olmstead style.”

G-7 Complement public/private activities and venues. Look for opportunities not already being provided. Look for public/private partnerships.

G-8 Look for public / private partnership to provide recreation activities.



## V. Additional information needed:

- Inventory of what's already available
  - See map and planned sites
  - See City of Boise information
- Survey
  - What are people interested in looking at, doing, etc.?
- Bring forward recreation data
- Photo record

## Eagle Island State Park

### Vision Elements

Eagle Island State Park will be an urban/natural park that...

- *Highlights the river and available recreation opportunities*
- *Provides balanced year-round recreational opportunities that meet user demands and preserve the park's resources*
- *Showcases the recreation resources and opportunities available in the region and in Idaho*
- *Includes spaces, opportunities and environment that allows visitors to escape their everyday life to achieve serenity, reflection and rejuvenation*
- *Offers land and water-based pathways that connect the parks features and links to other regional facilities*
- *Offer high quality educational opportunities that interpret the park's natural, historic and cultural features*
- *Is designed and operated to be so attractive and desirable that people will pay to go there*
- *Reflects the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation mission and is financially sustainable*

### Draft Goals

#### **Resource Preservation**

- Preserve, enhance and sustain the park's natural, cultural and historic resources
- Incorporate flood management mechanisms and research as needed to protect the park's resources from flood damage and minimize impact to the parks recreation opportunities
- Improve river access appropriate within the desired use and acceptable impacts to the park resources

#### **Park Emphasis and Function**

- Maintain the river and it's amenities as a focal point of the park.

- Provide a range of year round non-motorized recreation opportunities that highlight the park's resources and outdoor lifestyle of the region.
- Serve as a gateway to outdoor recreation opportunities in Idaho
- Reflect the park's natural and developed features and attractions.
- Provide affordable recreation opportunities for families to engage in healthy outdoor recreation.
- Operate the park without duplication of services and opportunities available from other assets in the region
- Maintain state park significance

### **Park Operation and Management**

- Develop and operate EISP as a natural park accessible to urban dwellers
- Provide structured and informal educational and interpretive opportunities/experiences to reflect the park's features and unique natural, cultural and historic resources
- Provide opportunities for donations and endowments that fit with the character of the park
- Operate the park to be financially viable
- Seek and incorporate sustainable and reliable partnerships that support the park's mission and goals
- Optimize awareness and support for the park
- Manage open areas without prohibiting access to other park activities.

### **Park Design**

- Design to highlight, protect and optimize use of the park's unique features and opportunities
- Design and operate the park to meet current and future user demands
- Design the park with safe and adequate access to meet public and emergency needs
- Provide pathway systems and connections that highlight the parks features and connect to other local and regional pathway systems
- Highlight and use on-site resources, topography and landscape to separate and define activity areas "Olmstead style."
- Provide river access to the park and explore water paths within the park by connecting the two river channels if hydrologically feasible.
- Design and plan for adaptability by programming activities that don't require extensive permanent infrastructure in order to keep open space.
- Effectively plan and connect the park design and operation to the entire river system